

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/DCI/WH12 741003

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO,
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER MR FRY, NMCC//ATTENTION CIA
REP, TREASURY DEPT//INFO FOR [REDACTED] 25X1A9a
WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 3

DATE: 3 OCTOBER 1974

SUBJECT: A SOVIET DIPLOMAT STAYS IN BELGRADE

REF : [REDACTED] 25X1A2g

THE ATMOSPHERE OF BALKAN MYSTERY AND CONSPIRACY THAT HAS THRIVED SINCE THE COMINFORMIST AFFAIR BECAME PUBLIC IN EARLY SEPTEMBER GOT A NEW INGREDIENT WHEN SOVIET MINISTER-COUNSELOR SEVIAN APPEARED AT A DIPLOMATIC FUNCTION IN BELGRADE ON SEPTEMBER 30. SEVIAN IS ONE OF THREE SENIOR WARSAW PACT DIPLOMATS SAID TO HAVE BEEN IMPLICATED IN SUPPORTING THE COMINFORMISTS. THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD CIRCULATED A NOTE TO THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING FOR HOME ON SEPTEMBER 25 AND [REDACTED] HIS AMBASSADOR HAD THROWN A FAREWELL PARTY FOR HIM ON SEPTEMBER 24.

THE CHANGE IN PLANS WAS CLEARLY RELATED TO THE COMINFORMIST

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25X1X7

25X1X7 AFFAIR. BY WAY OF EXPLAINING HIS CONTINUED PRESENCE [REDACTED] SEVIAN STATED THAT HE WAS REMAINING AT HIS POST TO GIVE THE LIE TO WESTERN PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS WERE INVOLVED IN THE COMINFORMIST CASE. HE ALSO STATED THAT SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS WERE QUITE NORMAL AND FRIENDLY. SEVIAN, OF COURSE, MADE NO MENTION OF THE FACT THAT YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE PRESS STORIES AND THAT MOSCOW ORIGINALLY INTENDED TO WITHDRAW HIM BECAUSE IT FEARED HE WOULD BE DECLARED PERSONA NON GRATA.

BY KEEPING SEVIAN IN BELGRADE, MOSCOW HAS TOSSED THE BALL BACK TO THE YUGOSLAWS. THE SOVIETS MAY NOW HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT BELGRADE WILL NOT DECLARE HIM PERSONA NON GRATA. ON THE OTHER HAND, THEY MAY HAVE DECIDED TO MOUNT A MODEST DIPLOMATIC COUNTERATTACK, FORCING BELGRADE TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE AND THEREBY BEAR SOME OF THE ONUS, FOR A FURTHER DOWNTURN IN RELATIONS.

WE THINK THE FORMER IS MORE LIKELY SINCE IT IS MORE IN KEEPING WITH MOSCOW'S DESIRE TO DEEMPHASIZE THE COMINFORMIST AFFAIR AND MITIGATE ITS EFFECT ON SOVIET-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS. NONETHELESS, THE SOVIETS HAVE MISCALCULATED BADLY THROUGHOUT THIS

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AFFAIR AND ONE MORE MISCALCULATION WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING.

WATCHING THE OUTCOME WITH SOME INTEREST WOULD BE THE HUNGARIAN

AND CZECHOSLOVAK AMBASSADORS TO YUGOSLAVIA--THE OTHER TWO DIPLO-

MATS IMPLICATED. THEY ARE PRESENTLY IN THEIR HOME CAPITALS

ALLEGEDLY FOR CONSULTATIONS. E-2 IMPDET.H

25X1A9a

{SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: E EUR DIV AND NIO

DATE: 3 OCT 74

ORIG: [REDACTED] WHSS 25X1A9a

UNIT: CIA OPS CTR

EXT: 9340

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